

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE GREAT PLAIN DINOSAUR MUSEUM IN MALTA, MONTANA

**Key Letter:** **N** – No Impact/Not Applicable    **B** – Potentially Beneficial    **A** – Potentially Adverse  
**P** – Approval/Permits Required    **M** – Mitigation Required

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
<b>Key</b>  <b>N</b>	<p><b>1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (e.g., soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)</b></p> <p>The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum (GPDM) site borders the Milk River, which is located to the north. Site geology consists of alluvial deposits to an undetermined depth. Near surface groundwater in the vicinity is between 10 and 20 feet below the ground surface.</p> <p>Approximately 60% of the lot is located within the designated 100-year floodplain of the Milk River. None of the property is located within the designated floodway. Montana State Floodplain Regulations required the lowest floor of the structure be elevated to 2 feet above the base flood elevation. Floodplain regulations also placed the following restrictions on the material used for fill: "Fill material placed in the floodway fringe must be stable, compacted, well graded, pervious, generally unaffected by water and frost, devoid of trash or similar foreign matter, devoid of tree stumps or other organic material, and appropriate for the purpose of supporting the intended use and/or permanent structure." The site topography was altered with approved fill material provided by the City of Malta to raise the building site to a level sufficient to raise the museum floor two feet above the 100-year flood plain elevation thus meeting the floodplain regulations. See enclosed soils analysis and compaction report as completed by Milk River Engineering. Meeting the above requirements, which comply with U.S. Department of the Interior requirements, makes the facility eligible to serve as a repository for paleontological resources recovered from federal property.</p> <p>This is discussed in detail in the site and building plans and specifications contained in the Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) completed by CIVIC Design.</p> <p>NTL Engineering and Geoscience, Inc. completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the property (the west 110 feet of Lot 7, Block 2 of the Original Townsite of Malta). The ESA investigated the potential for subsurface impacts to soil and/or groundwater underlying the property. NTL determined that there were indications that a property three blocks west and on the south side of U.S. Highway 2 had groundwater impacts from petroleum hydrocarbon releases related to a former bulk plant and from railroad activities. That site is being monitored by DEQ and monitoring wells may be placed near the museum property to determine if there are impacts present. There did not appear to be any sources of potential contamination on the museum site itself. NTL did not recommend that any Phase II Assessment activities be completed.</p> <p>There is little or no seismic activity recorded in Phillips County.</p> <p>The museum site is located within the City of Malta in a commercially zoned area. The site has been developed since 1905 for a variety of successive uses including a creamery, a warehouse, Meadow Valley Honey, and a residential home, which later became a photo studio, a beauty shop, and, most recently, Harms Floral Shop. This record of intensive use for over 100 years demonstrates that the site is suitable for building construction.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC  Bruce Davidson, CIVIC Design  Marv Cross, DNRC Water Resources</p>

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Key	<p><b>2. Hazardous Facilities (e.g., power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities &amp; propane storage tanks)</b></p> <p>The Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Estate for this site addresses the Condition of the Property and makes multiple warranties regarding Hazardous Facilities on site.</p> <p>The site contains a main utility easement containing sewer and buried utilities. A City of Malta right-of-way runs east and west and essentially “bi-sects” the site. The right-of-way prohibits building placement above these utilities to accommodate repair or modification. The site and building plans and specifications for construction made allowance for the right-of-way held by the City of Malta.</p> <p>There are no sites listed on the DEQ’s Leaking Underground Storage Tank list inside or immediately adjacent to the impacted area. Based on a visual inspection, there are no above ground storage tanks or storage facilities in the area. The BNSF railroad and right-of-way is south of the museum site, across US Highway 2. The site could potentially be adversely impacted in the event of a severe train derailment in the City of Malta railroad corridor.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC MT DEQ Web portal Bruce Davidson, CIVIC Design</p>
N	
Key	<p><b>3. Effects of Project on Surrounding Air Quality or Any Kind of Effects of Existing Air Quality on Project (e.g., dust, odors, emissions)</b></p> <p>2006 Air quality reports indicate 0 (zero) days with the W/AQI number of days above 100, an acceptable limit.</p> <p>Reasonable precautions were taken to control fugitive dust during the construction phase.</p> <p>Ongoing operation of GPDM is not anticipated to have any negative impacts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC MT DEQ web portal</p>
N	
Key	<p><b>4. Groundwater Resources &amp; Aquifers (e.g., quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)</b></p> <p>The City of Malta obtains its drinking water from wells with a combined capacity of 2,650 gallons per minute, which is adequate for the city’s population. The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum obtains its water from the City. No adverse impact is anticipated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC City of Malta CIP</p>
N	
Key	<p><b>5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity &amp; Distribution (e.g., streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)</b></p> <p>The site is located in the north section of Malta in what is historically known as the Original Town Site. The building was constructed on a site on which a retail floral shop and greenhouses were previously located. The surface area of the roof of the new museum</p>
N	

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	<p>building is less than the combined square footage of the previously existing structures. Special consideration was given to provisions for storm drainage and storm runoff in the site and building plans and specifications. Building runoff has been directed to supply natural water to tree plantings within the exterior landscape. Building construction and completed surface ground work have proven successful in handling surface water, as designed, with no adverse impacts</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC  Bruce Davidson, CIVIC Design</p>
<b>Key</b>	<p><b>6. Floodplains &amp; Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</b></p>
<b>P</b>	
	<p>Approximately 60% of the property selected for the Dinosaur Museum is located within the designated 100-year floodplain of the Milk River. None of the property is located within the designated floodway. The museum site is separated from the Milk River by an earthen flood dike constructed by the City of Malta in 1952 and improved in 1978. The dike is not certified by the U.S. Corps of Engineers; however, it has protected the area and the City of Malta during several past flood events. The City of Malta determined the elevation at the site to be 2245.2 feet. According to the FEMA Floodplain map # 300054 0001 B, dated May 19, 1987, the base flood elevation at the site is split between 2248 and 2247 feet. The flood elevation was determined by a registered land surveyor.</p> <p>Appropriate fill material, provided by the City of Malta, was used to assure that the floor of the museum is 2 feet higher than the 100-year flood plain level (2249.50 feet). This is necessary in order to comply with U.S. Department of the Interior requirements to serve as a repository for paleontological resources recovered from federal property. Montana State Floodplain Regulations also require the lowest floor of the structure be elevated to 2 feet above the base flood elevation. This required approximately four feet of fill on the south portion of the property, closest to Highway 2. According to a letter from the DNRC Water Resources Division, "Floodplain regulations place the following restrictions on the material used for fill: Fill material placed in the floodway fringe must be stable, compacted, well graded, pervious, generally unaffected by water and frost, devoid of trash or similar foreign matter, devoid of tree stumps or other organic material, and appropriate for the purpose of supporting the intended use and/or permanent structure." A copy of the DNRC letter is attached in addition to the soils compaction report as prepared by Milk River Engineering.</p> <p>The City Floodplain Administrator noted that the project, including providing fill material to elevate the building site, would comply with the City's floodplain regulations. The City further determined that the use of the site is not a "critical" building. A copy of the Floodplain Administrator's letter is attached.</p> <p>According to the DNRC Water Resources Division, "As long as afore referenced requirements are met, and the project is permitted by the Malta Floodplain Administrator, this project will be in compliance with the Floodplain Management Protection Act of 1973, the NFIP, and E.O. 11988."</p> <p>The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum exterior site plan features a park and open space area to the rear of the building in the designated floodplain area. The design for this area includes walking paths that will provide access to an undeveloped path along the flood canal that provides access to the City of Malta's Trafton Park and a fishing access site directly behind the adjacent HG Robinson House, a historic property and garden area owned by the Phillips County Museum. Impacts would potentially be beneficial.</p>

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	<p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC  City of Malta Floodplain Administrator  Marv Cross, DNRC Water Resources</p>	
<b>Key</b>	<p><b>7. Wetlands Protection (Identify any wetlands within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</b></p> <p>The museum site is separated from the Milk River by an earthen flood dike constructed by the City of Malta in 1952 and improved in 1978. The dike is not certified by the U.S. Corps of Engineers; however, it has protected the area and City of Malta during several past flood events. There are no known identified wetlands in the impacted area.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC  MT DEQ Web portal</p>	
<b>N</b>		
<b>Key</b>	<p><b>8. Agricultural Lands, Production, &amp; Farmland Protection (e.g., grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands) (Identify any prime or important farm ground or forest lands within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</b></p> <p>The area surrounding the City of Malta is categorized by NRCS as “farmland of statewide importance”. According to recorded deeds and history, the site for the museum has been utilized for various commercial purposes since 1905. The intended use will retain commercial status and the project will not affect agricultural lands offsite.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC  Phillips County Growth Policy</p>	
<b>N</b>		
<b>Key</b>	<p><b>9. Vegetation &amp; Wildlife Species &amp; Habitats, Including Fish (e.g., terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)</b></p> <p>The historic use of the site for commercial use will essentially continue and there are no known adverse impacts to critical habitat, animal species or natural vegetation. Landscape design for exterior areas of site include will utilize native species and a “Xeriscape” landscaping concept that will include weed control and generally enhance habitat and the visual aesthetics of the area.</p> <p>Woody Baxter, Regional Parks Manager for Montana FWP, following a review of the conceptual site plans, stated that FWP did not anticipate any impacts on existing fisheries and wildlife species and habitat. Impacts would potentially be beneficial.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC  Woody Baxter, Montana FWOP</p>	
<b>B</b>		
<b>Key</b>	<p><b>10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (e.g., plants, fish or wildlife)</b></p> <p>The property is located within the City of Malta and there are no known plants, fish or wildlife of special concern. Woody Baxter, Regional Parks Manager for Montana FWP, following review of conceptual site plans, stated that FWP did not anticipate any impacts on existing fisheries and wildlife species and habitat.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC  Woody Baxter, Montana FWP</p>	
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<b>Key</b> <b>N</b>	<b>11. Unique Natural Features (e.g., geologic features)</b>
	<p>There are no identified unique natural features of significance on-site or in the area.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC Woody Baxter, Montana FWP</p>
<b>Key</b> <b>B</b>	<b>12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational &amp; Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways, and Public Open Space</b>
	<p>The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum exterior site plan features a park and open space area to the rear of the building in the designated floodplain area. The area provides access to an undeveloped path along the flood canal that provides access to the City of Malta's Trafton Park and a fishing access site directly behind the adjacent HG Robinson House, a historic property and garden area owned by the Phillips County Museum. Impacts would potentially be beneficial.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC Bruce Davidson, CIVIC Design</p>
<b>HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
<b>Key</b> <b>B</b>	<b>1. Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics</b>
	<p>Special consideration has been given by the Architect and community members to insure that the museum building is a visual asset for the City of Malta. The Dinosaur Museum's proximity to the existing Phillips County Historical Museum insures a "campus concept" that will help assure the compatibility with uses along the U.S. Highway 2 corridor. Impacts would potentially be beneficial. The museum grounds have been attractively landscaped with native species plants and sandstone rocks from the Phillips County area. Highway access and parking areas are shared by the County Museum and Great Plains Dinosaur Museum, making best use of available space in an attractive and safe manner with ease of access.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC Bruce Davidson, CIVIC Design</p>
<b>Key</b> <b>N</b>	<b>2. Nuisances (e.g., glare, fumes)</b>
	<p>The project may have created short-term impacts during construction such as dust associated with construction activities. Reasonable precautions were taken to control fugitive dust during the construction phase. However, the museum facility is not anticipated to negatively affect or create nuisances for this developed commercial corridor along U.S. Highway 2.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key</b> <b>N</b>	<b>3. Noise -- suitable separation between noise sensitive activities (such as residential areas) and major noise sources (aircraft, highways &amp; railroads)</b>
	<p>The project may have resulted in short-term impacts during construction such as noise associated with construction activities. However, the traditional activities of a museum</p>

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	<p>facility are not anticipated to cause additional noise impacts for this developed commercial corridor along U.S. Highway 2 beyond the level it already experiences from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>	
<b>Key</b>	<b>4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources</b>	<p>Damon Murdo of the Montana Historical Society found no previously recorded historic sites within the designated area. To address the lack of information regarding previous historical and ground disturbance in the area, local research was conducted by Anne Boothe of PhillCo Economic Growth Council. That research indicates that the site has been built on since 1905 and has had a variety of successive uses including a creamery, a warehouse, Meadow Valley Honey, and a residential home which later became a photo studio, a beauty shop, and, most recently, Harms Floral Shop. A copy of the historical research conducted by Anne Boothe of PhillCo Economic Growth Council regarding the site in Malta is attached.</p> <p>The Harms Floral Shop relocated to a location in the downtown Malta business district. The previous property owners (Karl and Jan Harms) removed all the existing buildings and cleared the museum site before the property was sold to the State. No adverse impacts on historic properties or cultural and archaeological resources resulted from the construction of the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum. Publicity from a September 2008 Discovery Channel television special on the museum's paleontological resources and an agreement with the Houston Museum of Natural Science to provide improved exhibits will substantially enhance the museum's visibility and the quality of the educational experience it will be able to provide the public.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC  Damon Murdo, Montana Historical Society</p>
<b>N</b>		
<b>Key</b>	<b>5. Changes in Demographic (population) Characteristics (e.g., quantity, distribution, density)</b>	<p>Phillips County and the City of Malta have experienced significant out-migration in recent years and have capacity for additional population. The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum has the potential to bring seasonal part-time and full-time residents to the community and provide positive economic benefit. Any impacts would potentially be beneficial.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>B</b>		
<b>Key</b>	<b>6. General Housing Conditions - Quality, Quantity, Affordability</b>	<p>No adverse impact on housing conditions is anticipated. The City of Malta has adequate public lodging and no adverse impact on residential housing for community residents is anticipated.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>N</b>		
<b>Key</b>	<b>7. Displacement or Relocation of Businesses or Residents</b>	<p>The previous site owners, Karl and Jan Harms, relocated their business, Jan's Floral Shop and Greenhouse, to a downtown Malta location, prior to selling their property to the State of Montana. This was a personal decision for the Harms and while they have experienced some business interruptions, they feel the overall personal and community benefit was</p>
<b>N</b>		

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		positive with no adverse long-term impacts.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key N</b>	<b>8.</b>	<b>Public Health and Safety</b>
		No adverse impact on public health and safety is anticipated. If increased tourism in the community results from the construction of the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum, Malta has adequate medical facilities to handle emergencies or public health and safety issues that might be associated with an increase in visitation by tourists.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key N</b>	<b>9.</b>	<b>Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos</b>
		The project involved new construction only and is not impacted by lead based paint and/or asbestos considerations.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key B</b>	<b>10.</b>	<b>Local Employment &amp; Income Patterns - Quantity and Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact</b>
		Minimal job creation will be experienced during construction. Upon the completion of construction, the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum will have a positive impact, creating and retaining a minimum of 1 to 5 new full and part-time jobs in the community. Publicity from a September 2008 Discovery Channel television special on the museum's paleontological resources and an agreement with the Houston Museum of Natural Science to provide improved exhibits will substantially enhance the museum's visibility and the quality of the educational experience it will be able to provide the public.  Additional beneficial economic impacts will be realized in Malta and across the Hi-Line of Montana from increased tourism, paleontological research, and educational programs generated by the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum. Impacts would potentially be beneficial.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key N</b>	<b>11.</b>	<b>Local &amp; State Tax Base &amp; Revenues</b>
		Following acquisition from the Harms, the property is now owned by the State of Montana. If the proposed transfer of the Dinosaur Museum property to the City of Malta were approved, it would not generate additional tax revenue or adversely affect the local tax base. Revenues derived from the museum and increased tourism will revolve in the community and would be of financial benefit to local businesses and the economy. Impacts would potentially be beneficial.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key B</b>	<b>12.</b>	<b>Educational Facilities - Schools, Colleges, Universities</b>
		No negative impact is anticipated on schools, colleges and universities. There is great potential for positive educational opportunities involving the Great Plains Museum and Montana's primary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities for research and study involving the paleontological resources of north central Montana. This potential positive

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		<p>impact will be enhanced by the recent decision to keep the museum open year around, making it available for field trips to the museum during the school year. Publicity from a September 2008 Discovery Channel television special on the museum's paleontological resources and an agreement with the Houston Museum of Natural Science to provide improved exhibits will substantially enhance the museum's visibility and the quality of the educational experience it will be able to provide students and the general public. Educational impacts would potentially be beneficial.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key</b>	<b>13.</b>	<b>Commercial and Industrial Facilities - Production &amp; Activity, Growth or Decline.</b>
<b>B</b>		
		<p>Commercial and industrial production and activity has been on a dramatic decline in the Malta area over the past ten years. The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum will enhance the local community and economy during and after construction. Impacts would potentially be beneficial.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key</b>	<b>14.</b>	<b>Health Care – Medical Services</b>
<b>N</b>		
		<p>No negative impact on health care or medical services is anticipated. Increased tourist visitors will find comprehensive services available at local health care facilities.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key</b>	<b>15.</b>	<b>Social Services – Governmental Services (e.g., demand on)</b>
<b>N</b>		
		<p>HB423, which appropriated state funds for the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum in 2005, provided that the museum would be owned by the State of Montana. The text of the legislation anticipated that the museum would be leased to a private, non-profit organization for its operation. The Montana Department of Commerce currently leases the museum to the Judith River Foundation of Malta at a reasonable rental rate that will not place a burden on the State or the Foundation. If approved by the State Land Board, ownership of the property would be transferred to the City of Malta with a reversionary clause that would require that it be returned to the State if it ever ceases to be operated as the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum. The City has agreed to enter into a long-term lease with GPDM. This lease would be similar to the existing lease between GPDM and the State of Montana.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key</b>	<b>16.</b>	<b>Social Structures &amp; Mores (Standards of Social Conduct/Social Conventions)</b>
<b>N</b>		
		<p>No adverse impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key</b>	<b>17.</b>	<b>Land Use Compatibility (e.g., growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)</b>
<b>P</b>		
		<p>The project is consistent with the Phillips County Growth Policy approved in October 2006, which also includes the City of Malta. The project conforms with the Goals section of the</p>

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		<p>Phillips County Growth Policy.</p> <p>The museum site is within the City of Malta “Highway Commercial” zoning district. No adverse impacts or potential conflicts involving land use are anticipated. The project will comply with all ordinances and zoning regulations. In a letter dated, November 15, 2006, the City of Malta stated that the museum is compatible with the Highway Commercial zoning district and that they intend to approve the zoning permit application for the project. A copy of the letter is attached.</p> <p>No adverse impacts or potential conflicts involving land use are anticipated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC City of Malta</p>
<b>Key B</b>	<b>18.</b>	<b>Energy Resources - Consumption and Conservation</b>
		<p>Great Plains Dinosaur Museum was constructed utilizing modern energy efficiencies with emphasis on energy savings and “Xeriscape” landscaping design with native species from the Phillips County area, which require little or no supplemental watering. Impacts are potentially beneficial.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC Bruce Davidson, CIVIC Design</p>
<b>Key N</b>	<b>19.</b>	<b>Solid Waste Management</b>
		<p>City of Malta provides commercial on-site waste pickup, which will be utilized by the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum. No adverse impact anticipated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key N</b>	<b>20.</b>	<b>Wastewater Treatment - Sewage System</b>
		<p>City of Malta provides municipal wastewater collection for city residents and commercial users. Great Plains Dinosaur Museum utilizes city wastewater services with no adverse impact anticipated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key N</b>	<b>21.</b>	<b>Storm Water – Surface Drainage</b>
		<p>City of Malta has an existing storm water collection system with a major drain located on the museum site. Surface drainage was taken into consideration within the site design and building plans. Building construction and completed surface drainage groundwork have proven successful in handling surface water, as designed, with no adverse impacts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC Bruce Davidson, CIVIC Design</p>
<b>Key N</b>	<b>22.</b>	<b>Community Water Supply</b>
		<p>The City of Malta has an adequate public water supply. No adverse impact is anticipated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>

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<b>Key</b> <b>N</b>	<b>23. Public Safety – Police</b>	
		The Phillips County Sheriff provides public safety services and police protection for the City of Malta. No adverse impact is anticipated.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key</b> <b>N</b>	<b>24. Fire Protection – Hazards</b>	
		Fire protection for this area is provided by the Malta Volunteer Fire Department. No adverse impact is anticipated. Building does not feature a fire suppression system but fire protection is enhanced through the security alarm system installed and monitored by Kenco Systems. With any significant disturbances within building (such as fire), local 911 services would be immediately contacted via direct phone notification.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key</b> <b>N</b>	<b>25. Emergency Medical Services</b>	
		No negative impact on health care or medical services is anticipated. Increased tourist visitors will find comprehensive services available at local health care facilities.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key</b> <b>B</b>	<b>26. Parks, Playgrounds, &amp; Open Space</b>	
		The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum exterior site plan features a park and open space area to the rear of the building in the designated floodplain area. This area provides direct access to a walking path along the Milk River, which includes fishing access to the Milk River and access to the City of Malta Trafton Park. Any impacts are likely to enhance public access to parks and open space and would potentially be beneficial.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key</b> <b>B</b>	<b>27. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness &amp; Diversity</b>	
		The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum will provide new cultural experiences and add diversity to the existing community of Malta and its residents. There is great potential for positive educational opportunities involving the Great Plains Museum and Montana's primary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities for research and study involving the paleontological resources of north-central Montana. Publicity from a September 2008 Discovery Channel television special on the museum's paleontological resources and an agreement with the Houston Museum of Natural Science to provide improved exhibits will substantially enhance the museum's visibility and the quality of the educational experience it will be able to provide the public.  Impacts would potentially be beneficial.  Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC
<b>Key</b> <b>N</b>	<b>28. Transportation Networks and Traffic Flow Conflicts (e.g., rail; auto including local traffic; airport runway clear zones - avoidance of incompatible land use in airport</b>	

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		<b>runway clear zones)</b>
		<p>The museum site has had historic commercial use since 1905. Construction activity did not have a negative impact on transportation or traffic flows. The existing parking for the Phillips County Museum was enhanced with improved highway access and additional parking area provided by GPDM. New improved signage for both the County and Great Plains Museum along U.S. 2 improve facility and turning access and visibility while increasing traffic safety on US 2. The museum site is not within the 1-mile radius and clear zone of the Phillips County Airport, which is located on U.S. 2 west of Malta.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>
<b>Key</b>	<b>29.</b>	<b>Consistency with Local Ordinances, Resolutions, or Plans (e.g., conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning, or capital improvement plans)</b>
<b>P</b>		
		<p>The project is consistent with the Phillips County Growth Policy approved in October 2006, which also includes the City of Malta. The project conforms to the Goals section of the Phillips County Growth Policy.</p> <p>The museum site is within the City of Malta “Highway Commercial” zoning district. No adverse impacts or potential conflicts involving land use are anticipated. The project will comply with all ordinances and zoning regulations (including a 45 foot height restriction;) the City ordinance calls for a 10 foot easement on the west side of the property; project officials may seek a variance to this requirement, if deemed necessary.</p> <p>In a letter dated, November 15, 2006, the City of Malta stated that the museum is compatible with the Highway Commercial zoning district and that they intend to approve the zoning permit application for the project. A copy of the letter is attached.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC Bruce Davidson, CIVIC Design</p>
<b>Key</b>	<b>30.</b>	<b>Is There a Regulatory Action on Private Property Rights as a Result of this Project? (consider options that reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.)</b>
<b>N</b>		
		<p>There were no regulatory actions regarding private property rights because of this project. The previous property owners, Karl and Jan Harms, relocated their business, Jan’s Floral Shop and Greenhouse, to a downtown Malta location, prior to selling their property to the State of Montana. This was a personal decision for the Harms and involved no regulatory actions regarding their private property rights. No adverse impacts on private property rights are anticipated.</p> <p>Anne Boothe, PhillCo EGC</p>